

THE FISH HAWK HERALD



Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Upcoming Events

Next meeting May 14

The regular monthly chapter meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Road. The program is about waterfowl research in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin.

Audubon Joins Earth Day Celebration at CDA Library – "The Planet vs Plastics"

Chapter members pitched in for a local Earth Day Celebration on April 20th, beginning with a Tubbs Hill bird hike led by George Saylor and staffing one of 20 display tables for local organizations. Our Audubon table was front and center and a hit with visitors.

Numerous families and children stopped at the table to look at bird houses, nests, plush birds, goose wing, and the birding backpack our chapter has provided for check-out at the Library. There were plenty of eager conversations and birding questions.

Also, there were items to take home: stickers, badges, and bags containing the ingredients for making pinecone bird feeders (smear peanut butter on the cone, roll in bird seed, hang outside, and watch). A few less-eager environmentalists just stopped for the candy.

Audubon Volunteers at the table included Peggy Alberton, Lisa Clark, Ellie Em, Ted and Heather Smith, and Antje Cripe.

President's Message

Greetings, everyone:

Hope you all have been getting out birding. The migration is definitely on and new birds are arriving daily. My harbingers of Spring, white-crowned sparrows, arrived in my yard on April 19th. They won't be here long as it is a long flight to northern Canada for many of them.

Our club is growing and our contacts with other clubs are improving as I now receive field trip notices from some of them. I will work to get these added to our new and vastly improved website once it goes live. Speaking of which, the website committee will be presenting their work to us at our May 14 general meeting. We also have a very interesting program for May 14 about waterfowl research in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. We are still in search of a willing member to take the lead in scheduling programs for our meetings; please consider this opportunity to become more active in our club. I want to publicly thank Ellie Emm for her hard work organizing the spring highway cleanup. It was a great success. To all the members working behind the scenes, thank you for helping our club grow, improve, and prosper.

Happy Birding. Ted

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Chapter Birding Trips, Past and Planned

Theresa Shaffer reports that the Chapter's birding excursion to the Slavin Conservation Area in eastern Washington on April 17 was a great success. Birders made observations of an array of waterfowl (red head, cinnamon teal, mallards, coots, gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Canada geese, and a Lesser Scaup. The group also saw a juvenile bald eagle, osprey, yellow-headed and red-wing blackbirds, tree swallow and a rare sighting of a marsh wren building a nest.

Upcoming field trips include a visit to Chain Lakes on May 11, followed by a meal in Wallace; a Saturday day trip June 8 to Bonners Ferry-Kootenai River Wildlife Refuge (overnight stays are also possible); a "Bird and Breakfast June 15 at Carder Farm, with Wess Hanson and Theresa Shaffer as your hosts, and a possible kayak trip on Fernan Lake in June with Beth Paragamian, date and time TBD.

Test Your Avian Awareness: Love is in the Air!

Directions: select the best answer to the bird courtship questions below. Answers, page 3.

1. The male of this species creates a "parasol" of shimmering color and the darkest black in the world during his courtship dance.
a. Peahen; b. Flamingo; c. Bird of Paradise;
d. Ring-necked Pheasant
2. This bird's courtship dance includes head bobbing, bill clapping, calling and wing lifting.
a. Raven; b. Magpie; c. Sage Grouse;
d. Black-footed Albatross
3. This bird's courtship dance involves running across the surface of water in a display called "rushing."
a. Canada goose; b. Grebe; c. Loon; d. Pelican
4. The males of this species make a unique "wup" noise which sounds like the uncorking of a champagne bottle.
a. Sage Grouse; b. Loon; c. Barn Owl; d. Emu

5. This bird does an athletic "freestyle routine" of jumps, sometimes grabbing bits of vegetation to throw in the air.

a. Sandhill crane; b. Red-winged blackbird; c. Ostrich; d. Emu

6. Like a disciplined military band, these male birds march together in a tight formation, using a synchronized maneuver called "head flagging."

a. Tundra swans; b. Penguins; c. Flamingos
d. Ravens

7. The male of this species twists his body in the air and flexes the muscles in his face, looking like a mythological dragon.

a. Costa's Hummingbird; b. Western Meadowlark; c. Junco; d. Swallow

8. This bird's mating ritual is simple: which males can jump the highest for the longest stretch of time?

a. Sharp-tailed grouse; b. Robin; c. Jackson's Widowbird; d. Blue Heron

9. These birds do "tap dances" to attract females, mechanically pounding the ground with their feet.

a. Mallard; b. Sharp-tailed grouse; c. Sandhill Crane
d. Penguin

10. Perhaps the most spectacular acrobatic mating ritual of any bird species is called the "cartwheel courtship flight" which looks exactly like it sounds.

a. Barn Owl; b. Ruby-throated Hummingbird;
c. Kestrel; d. Bald Eagle

Highway Cleanup A Success! Anyone need spare car parts?

Ellie Emm reports that Audubon's Highway Cleanup was a roaring success on April 13th. Eleven people were in attendance with 18 bags of trash collected along the roadside. In addition, a rear-view mirror, half a bumper and miscellaneous car parts were added to the heap! Ellie provided coffee and coffee cake which was enjoyed by the participants on a gorgeous sunny morning. Work was completed well before noon.

Juniper Removal Opens Safe Habitat for Grouse

A significant effort to restore sage grouse populations by removing western junipers has been going on in southern Idaho for several years, opening the land for native plants and wildlife. Cattle herds also benefit from this work, increasing its popularity with local farmers and ranchers.

Western junipers have been encroaching on meadows and valleys in Owyhee County for more than a decade, eliminating habitat for sage grouse and using precious ground water as well. Aerial surveys have found that juniper numbers have jumped three to five times in recent years, increasing the likelihood for wildfires in the region.

Sage grouse have established 150 "leks" (traditional mating grounds where groups of males compete for the attention of females) in the Owyhee Mountains, but junipers pose a threat to the species. The trees attract predators such as ravens to the leks, providing a hiding place from which the raven can observe sage grouse, follow them back to their nesting grounds, and steal their eggs.

Sage grouse engage in a unique mating ritual, during which the males "dance" in a circle, puffing out the air sacs in their chests, then deflate them rapidly with a loud, popping sound. A related species, the ruffled grouse of Appalachia, makes a sound called "drumming" by beating its wings to attract females.

Getting rid of the hearty and prolific junipers is not an easy process. A special rotating blade in a roller drum is used to cut and grind up every bit of the tree in a process called "juniper mastication."

The results of juniper eradication have been dramatic— scientists estimate the number of grouse leks in a treated area doubled within three years of the mastication treatment.

Highway 95 Cleanup Crew With the "Fruits" of their Labor



Heather Smith & Darlene Carlton



Cleanup Volunteers Gather at Mica Grange



Photos by Peggy Albertson

CDA Audubon Chapter Officers

President: Ted Smith
Vice President: Patty Beyer (on leave)
Acting Vice-President: George Saylor
Recording Secretary: Pamela Gomes
Treasurer: Ellie Emm
Board Members: All officers and George Saylor, Dick Cripe, Heather Smith, Ralph Kerr

Committee Chairs:

Publicity:
Field Trips: Theresa Shaffer
Education:
Conservation:
Membership: Peggy Albertson
208 664-1616
Hospitality: Ellie Emm
Newsletter: Alice Koskela
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Local Membership Dues

- Individual \$10.00*
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- Individual \$25.00 - with hard copy of the newsletter*
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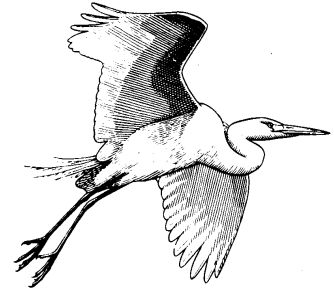
National Audubon New Member Application

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